



Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Water Supply Protection
Office of Watershed Management

Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System 2006 Public Access Management Plan Update

The Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Water Supply Protection, Office of Watershed Management (DCR/DWSP/OWM) is responsible for the active and reserve water supply sources contained within the Quabbin Reservoir, Ware River, Wachusett Reservoir and Sudbury Reservoir watersheds. DCR/DWSP/OWM and its predecessors have a long tenure of providing high quality drinking water to the citizens of Massachusetts. There are a variety of federal and state laws that OWM must work under as a drinking water manager. OWM is also responsible for implementing its own regulations in its efforts to protect the source drinking water for approximately one third of the Commonwealth.

The Quabbin Reservoir is the primary drinking water supply in this watershed system. DCR/DWSP/OWM owns over 82,000 acres of land and water in the Quabbin Reservoir watershed. While DCR manages this watershed primarily for water quality protection, drinking water supply, and environmental resource protection purposes, these vast areas are also used by the public for recreation.

The first Public Access Plan for the Quabbin Reservoir watershed was published in 1988. This plan outlined control policies and monitoring mechanisms used to mitigate possible negative impacts from public access to Watershed Management property in Barre, Belchertown, Hardwick, New Salem, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, Shutesbury, Ware, and Wendell. An update was completed ten years later in 1998. This most recent update was initiated in 2005, completed in spring 2006, and officially adopted in July 2006.

DCR and its predecessor have continuously involved stakeholders in its public access policy development, review, and modification. The planning process for this latest update included two public meetings, a visitor survey, an abutter's survey, and a public hearing. DCR continuously receives pressure to allow new recreational opportunities and increase the availability of currently allowed activities. The input received while updating the Quabbin Access Management Plan demonstrated, however, that local residents, land abutters, visitors, and environmental organizations are supportive of DCR's policies to protect the public water supply while allowing controlled access to these resources.

The following map and table provide a summary of the policies described in the 2006 *Public Access Management Plan Update: Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System*. The complete document, which integrates current regulations and legislation into updated policies, is available on-line at www.mass.gov/dcr/waterSupply/watershed/dwmpplans.htm and click on Quabbin Reservoir Watershed Public Access Plan Update. Copies are also available at the Quabbin Visitors Center or town libraries in the watershed. The public access policies for the entire DCR water supply watershed system are available on-line at www.mass.gov/dcr/waterSupply/watershed/pacc.htm. For further information, please contact the Quabbin Visitor's Center at (413) 323-7221.

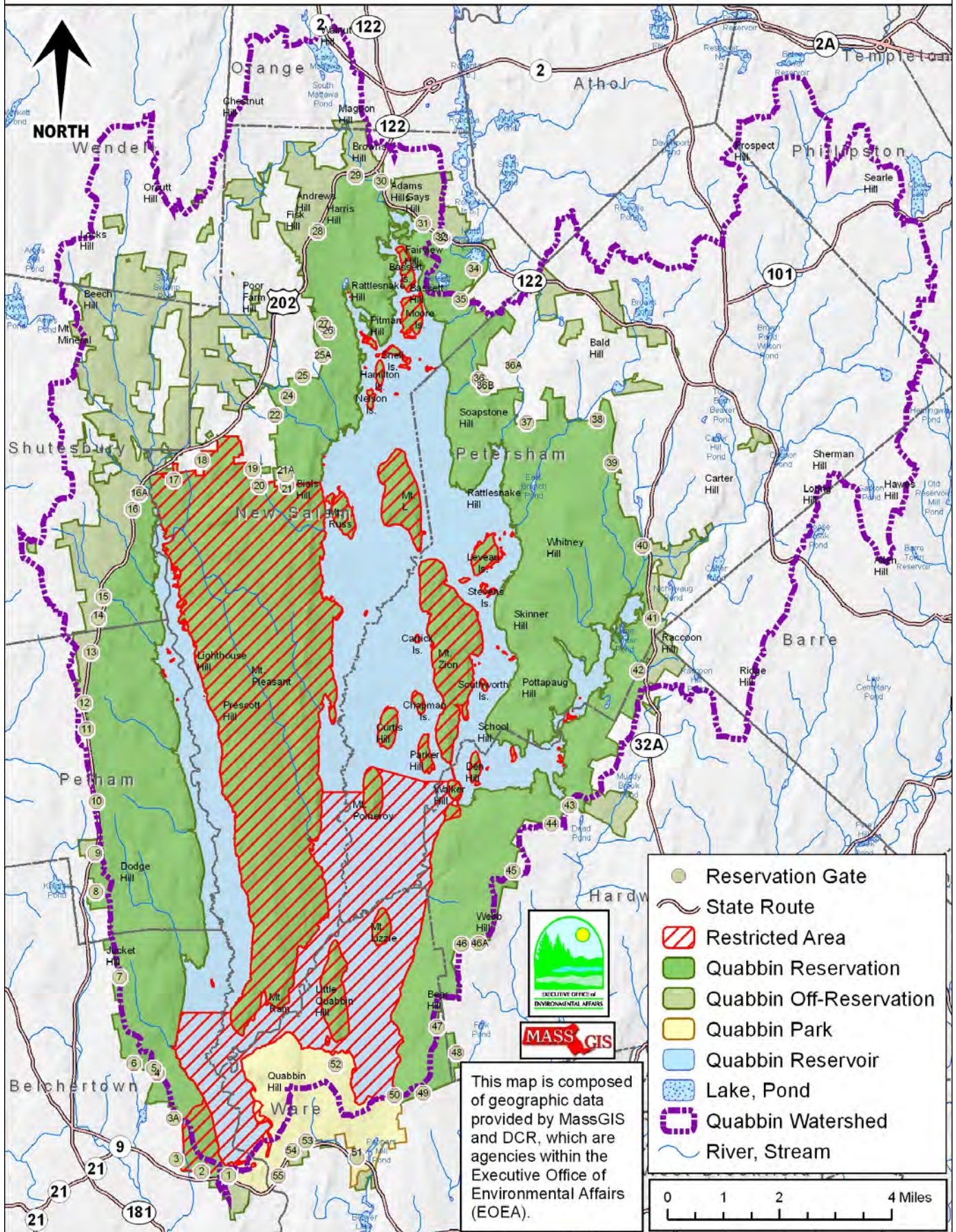


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & RECREATION

Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System

Division of Water Supply Protection - Office of Watershed Management
Public Access Management Plan 2006





Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System

2006 Public Access Summary

Activity	Quabbin Park	Quabbin Reservation	Off-Reservation	Quabbin Reservoir	Regulating Ponds ^a	Off-Watershed Ponds ^b
VEHICLE ACCESS						
Driving for Sightseeing	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Snowmobiling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ATV Riding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bicycling -Designated Roads	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Off-road Bicycling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sledding	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOOT ACCESS						
Walking/Hiking/Snowshoeing	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cross-country Skiing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hunting/Trapping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ice Fishing/Ice Skating	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
Shore Fishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 12
WATER ACCESS						
Boat Fishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 13
Canoeing/Kayaking/Boating	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 15
Wading (fishing, launching)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18	<input type="checkbox"/> 18	<input type="checkbox"/> 16
Swimming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OTHER ACCESS						
Group Activities (e.g., weddings)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19	<input type="checkbox"/> 19	<input type="checkbox"/> 19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Geocaching/Questing	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife/Bird Watching	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
Night Access	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 22	<input type="checkbox"/> 22	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 21
Organized Sports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dogs/ Other Animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Horseback Riding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Collecting/Metal Detecting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Camping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fishing Derbies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Target Shooting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertising	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marking – Trail/Roads (unauthorized)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alcohol (possession of)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	Please call the Quabbin Visitor Center 413-323-7221 or Watershed Ranger Station 413-323-0192					

LEGEND: Prohibited – ☒

Allowed - general restrictions – ☐

Specific Conditions – ☐ #

^a The areas on the reservoir above the horseshoe dams at Gates 31 and 43

^b South Spectacle Pond, Bassett Pond, and Peppers Mill Pond

General Restrictions:

General public access within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System is restricted to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only. Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited. This chart is based on the Watershed Protection Regulations 350 CMR 11.00, copies of which are available at the Quabbin Visitor Center. Littering is strictly prohibited. Carry in/Carry out. Don't feed wildlife.

Specific Restrictions:

- ¹ The Winsor Dam and Goodnough Dike have restricted vehicle access for security reasons.
- ² Snowmobiling is allowed only on the DCR designated trail located on Off-Reservation land. 304 CMR 12.29 applies.
- ³ Bicycling is only allowed on designated roads in Quabbin Park. See DCR Bicycling maps. Helmets and protective gear are required by MA law for children under 16 years of age and recommended for others
- ⁴ Bicycling is allowed only on designated roads through DCR gates 29, 30, 31, 35, 40, 43A & B, and 44. Bicycling is only allowed on designated roads through Gate 8 during fishing season. See DCR Bicycling map for designated roads.
- ⁵ Bicycling is allowed on main forest roads only within Off-Reservation lands with seasonal restrictions (e.g., mud season).
- ⁶ Sledding or any other kind of sliding activity is prohibited on the reservoir, the dams and other structures.
- ⁷ Walking, hiking, or snowshoeing access is allowed within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed system, except in restricted areas (e.g., Prescott Peninsula, posted Administration Areas, Reservoir islands and along the baffle dams-November 15 – June 15).
- ⁸ Hunting and Trapping are prohibited except by special permit during the Quabbin Controlled Deer Hunt and associated Paraplegic Hunt. Contact the Quabbin Visitor Center for more information.
- ⁹ Ice fishing, ice skating, and carry-in boat access allowed on three Off-watershed ponds: South Spectacle, Bassett and Peppers Mill Ponds only. Please call Watershed Rangers, if accessing, as a courtesy at 413-323-0192.
- ¹⁰ No fishing in Quabbin Park except catch-and-release fly fishing (allowed all year) below the Winsor Dam in the Swift River, unless posted.
- ¹¹ Shore fishing along the Reservoir and along streams is permitted between Gates 8-West Branch Swift River, and 22-44 (except on baffle dams), by foot, during the designated Quabbin Fishing Season only. See the current Quabbin Fishing Guide and Map available at the Quabbin Visitor Center.
- ¹² Shore fishing within off-reservation lands and along off-watershed ponds is allowed year round according to State Fishing regulations.
- ¹³ Carry-in boat access is allowed on off-watershed ponds. See Night Access Policy, if applicable.
- ¹⁴ Boat access on designated areas of reservoir or regulating ponds requires valid MA Fishing License and size/motor restrictions. Wearing boots is mandatory if wading while launching or removing boats at designated areas from the Reservoir. Fishing access using canoes, kayaks, or jon boats is allowed only through Gate 31 above regulating dam and through Gate 43 on Pottapaug Pond with restrictions. Contact the Quabbin Visitor Center at 413-323-7221 for more information regarding current Fishing Guide.
- ¹⁵ Allowed subject to MA Boating regulations. Please call Watershed Rangers, if accessing, as a courtesy at 413-323-0192
- ¹⁶ Wading is allowed Off-watershed below the Winsor Dam Power Station on the Swift River
- ¹⁷ Wading with boots is allowed between Gate 8-West Branch Swift River, and Gate 22-44, except in restricted areas, and in Off-Reservation tributaries.
- ¹⁸ Wading is prohibited except while launching or removing boats while wearing boots, at designated boat launch areas.
- ¹⁹ Allowed without a permit for groups of less than 25 individuals and/or less than 10 cars and/or 10 motorcycles. Permit required for group of 25 through 100 individuals and/or 10-40 cars/motorcycles or 1 bus. Permit and Ranger required for larger groups or other combinations.
- ²⁰ Special permit from Visitor Center required for any cache placement.
- ²¹ Night access within Quabbin Park is prohibited with two exceptions. It is allowed without a permit on Swift River below Y pool, if access is from Route 9, and on Peppers Mill Pond.
- ²² Night access within Quabbin Reservation is allowed by permit for pedestrians only through Gates 16, 31, 35, 41, and 43 only during the designated Quabbin Fishing season. Night access directly from 122 is allowed without a permit on South Spectacle Pond (off-watershed). Night access is allowed on Off-Reservation lands with special permit. Contact Quabbin Visitor Center for permit information.
- ²³ South Spectacle, Bassett, and Peppers Mill Ponds.
- ²⁴ Prohibited except with written permission from the Commissioner.